

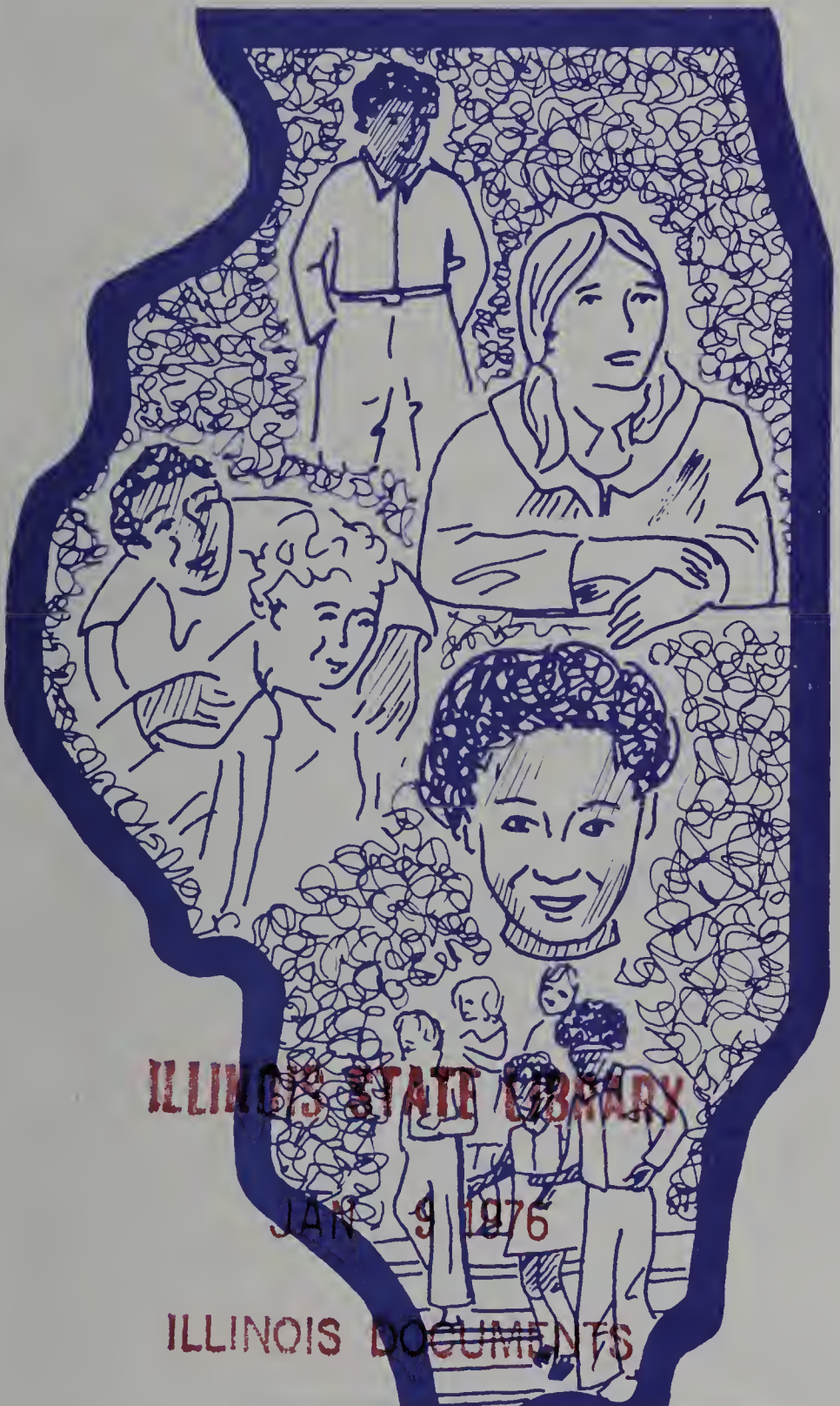
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# Illinois Teachers' & Sailors' Children's School



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Serving all citizens regardless of their race, creed, or ethnic background

The Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School is situated at the northeast edge of Normal, Illinois, on a 55-acre campus. Established in 1865 by the General Assembly, ISSCS is a residential facility for dependent and neglected children and minors in need of supervision. The school is operated by the state Department of Children and Family Services.

The purpose of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School has been to provide care, training, and education for boys and girls whose parents have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and who had been declared dependent or neglected or minors in need of supervision under provisions of the Juvenile Court Act.

Legislation which became effective October 1, 1975, states, "Children whose parent or parents, including adoptive parents, have served in the armed forces of the United States shall be given preference. Other dependent or neglected children may be admitted when space is available."

The ISSCS program is designed to promote the general development of the children physically, mentally, and socially.

## **ADMISSION**

Children aged six through 17 who need care in a structured environment may be considered for admission. Requests to admit individual children are submitted by staff in the Department's field offices and evaluated by the school's admissions committee. Parents who are financially able are expected to contribute to the support of their children.

## **PROGRAM PLANNING**

A program is planned for each youngster, keeping in mind his or her individual needs, by a team of representatives from all areas of the school's child care staff and by Department field office staff.

## LENGTH OF STAY

Children leave ISSCS when their best interests would be served by another type of placement, such as their own rehabilitated homes, foster homes, or another type of residential facility. The school also helps find independent living arrangements and employment for students who finish their high school education or a vocational training program while in residence. Emergency care up to 15 days is provided for children in need of short-term placement.

## COTTAGE LIFE

The cottage life program at the school provides constructive group living experiences with an appropriate emotional climate for children who are working out problems. Cottage parents help in establishing a homelike atmosphere. Each cottage is fully equipped for complete living. Some meals are prepared and served in the cottage, while others are served in the main dining room.

## CASEWORK SERVICES

Individual and family casework services are provided by a social work supervisor and a staff of social workers. Consultants in





psychiatry, clinical psychology, and psychiatric social work help to meet the children's needs and provide inservice training for ISSCS child care staff.

## EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS TRAINING

Students able to function in a public school setting attend either Normal Unit 5 schools or University High School on the campus of Illinois State University. Others are enrolled in one of three on-grounds school programs: an ungraded elementary school, an interim or alternative high school, or vocational training. These programs focus on preparing students to return to public school, either in Normal or in their home communities. The comprehensive program can serve the needs of children whose educational performances range from retarded to gifted. This is accomplished with small teacher-pupil ratios, individualized instruction techniques, and tutoring on a one-to-one basis.

A goal of the vocational training is to teach students marketable skills in an occupation of their choosing.

The on-grounds school program also provides educational training for wards of the state who do not reside at ISSCS but who need this type of program because of their inability to function in public schools.



Vocational guidance and counseling services are available. They include participation of high school students in Diversified Occupations (a public school program), an on-grounds therapeutic work program, and employment in the community. Referral services to other training and rehabilitation agencies also are available.

Children are encouraged to attend the church of their choice in the community. Chaplaincy services are available on the school grounds.

## **VISITING PRIVILEGES AND VACATIONS**

A child's contacts with family and friends are highly influential in his or her current and long-range adjustment. The effects of such contacts are evaluated to decide the frequency, nature, and length of visits. All visits must be arranged in advance with the social service office at ISSCS.

Children are encouraged to vacation with parents, relatives, and friends. Staff in the Department's field offices assist in making vacation arrangements.

## **RECREATION**

The recreation program offers a means for self-expression, social adjustment through group participation, and development of interest in new skills. Facilities include an indoor activity center, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, and several areas for outdoor play. Students participate in many activities in the community such as American Legion baseball games, plays, concerts, circuses, and other special events.

## **HEALTH**

Medical, dental, and nursing services are provided by a part-time medical director, a part-time dentist, and full-time registered

nurses. Special attention is given to a preventive medicine program.

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

Students from Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan universities, as well as other groups and individuals in the community, furnish a variety of services for the children. There is an extensive tutorial program for both elementary and high school students. In addition, "Big Brothers" and "Big Sisters" are available to those students who can benefit from such a relationship.

The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, other voluntary organizations, clubs, church groups, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars remember the youngsters on special occasions. The American Legion Auxiliary provides spending money for the children, and the V.F.W. donates the funds for the students' work-training programs.

For more information, contact the Superintendent, Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School, 600 East Lincoln Street, Normal, Illinois 61761, (309) 452-1136.